

REMARKS:

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, and 20-101 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 75 have been canceled, and claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21, 47, 49, 50, 76, 77, and 98-100 have been amended. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 20-74, and 76-101 are now pending in this application.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 15, 20, 49, 75, and 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamp et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,816,175 in view of Lamping, U.S. Patent No. 5,619,632. While Applicant disagrees with these rejections, to advance this application toward an allowance, Applicant has canceled these claims, and thus submits that these rejections are now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 21-48,¹ 50-74, and 77-101 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As set forth below, Applicant has amended each of the objected-to claims in a manner that is believed to place them in condition for allowance. Applicant notes that it has made one minor modification to these claims. For example, claim 1 previously recited "selecting a first node via an interface of a computer system." In amending claim 2 to incorporate the limitations of claim 1, Applicant has incorporated the above-quoted limitation as "*receiving input* selecting a first node via an interface of a computer system." Applicant submits that this change should not affect the indicated allowability of claim 2, and respectfully requests entry of this amendment. Applicant has amended the other objected-to claims in a similar fashion, and respectfully requests entry of these amendments as well.

¹ The Office Action states on page 5 that claims 21-74 are deemed to be allowable if rewritten as indicated, but Applicant presumes that this list should not include claim 49 given that it was indicated as rejected elsewhere in the Office Action.

Applicant has amended claims 2, 3, and 21 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1, which has been canceled. Applicant has amended claim 21 to incorporate the limitations of claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 20, formerly dependent on claim 1, to depend on claim 2.

Applicant has amended claims 9, 10, and 50 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 8, which has been canceled. Applicant has amended claim 49, formerly dependent on claim 8, to depend on claim 9.

Applicant has amended claims 16 and 17 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 15, which has been canceled.

Applicant has amended claims 77 and 100 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 75, which has been canceled. Applicant has amended claim 76, formerly dependent on claim 75, to depend on claim 77.

Finally, Applicant notes that claim 98 and 99, deemed allowable, erroneously referred to claim 50, which is not a computer-readable medium claim. To clarify, Applicant has amended these claims to depend on claim 77, which has been deemed allowable by the Examiner.

Applicant has also made what are believed to be minor amendments to claim 9 (e.g., adding “ing” form to verbs) and claims 50 and 77 (adding an “s” to “program instruction”).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION:

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/6057-06901/DMM.

Respectfully submitted,

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